

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

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FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7154

INFO AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USINT HAVANA

UNCLAS BUJUMBURA 0691

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PEPR, BY, CU

SUBJ: EDITORIAL ON CUBAN RELATIONS

1. FOLLOWING IS RESUME OF EDITORIAL APPEARING JUNE 15 EDITION OF
GOVERNMENT NEWSPAPER LE RENOUVEAU.

2. ON JUNE 15 FIRST CUBAN AMBASSADOR RESIDENT IN BURUNDI, H E RAMIRO
RODRIGUEZ GOMEZ, PRESENTED HIS LETTERS OF CREDENTIALS TO PRESIDENT
BAGAZA. THIS IMPLEMENTS AGREEMENTS OF FEBRUARY 2, 1974.

3. IN OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES ARRIVAL OF CUBAN DIPLOMAT WOULD EXCITE ONLY
INDIFFERENCE. BECAUSE OF BLUDGEONING OF PUBLICITY SURROUNDING
SOVIET/CUBAN ACTIVITIES IN AFRICA, HOWEVER, CERTAIN EMBASSIES GO SO
FAR AS TO DECLARE OPENING OF CUBAN EMBASSY AS UNFRIENDLY ACT.
OTHERS THINK THAT TO ACCEPT ESTABLISHMENT OF CUBAN EMBASSY AT
MOMENT THIS COUNTRY FIGURES IN DESTABILIZATION OF AFRICA IS TO
GIVE THEM BASE FROM WHICH THEY CAN OPERATE IN COMPLETE TRANQUILITY.

4. IT WOULD BE ILLOGICAL FOR US TO REJECT OFFER OF FRIENDSHIP OF
CUBAN PEOPLE TO PLEASE ANOTHER COUNTRY. ALL STATES, STARTING
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FROM LARGEST SEEK TO ENLARGE CIRCLE OF FRIENDS. WHY SHOULD
SMALL COUNTRY BE REPROACHED FOR DOING SAME THING. IT, AS WE HOPE,
COOPERATION BETWEEN BURUNDI AND CUBA BECOMES STRONGER, WE WOULD
HOPE SEND STUDENTS TO HAVANA AND RECEIVE CUBAN TECHNICIANS AS WE
ACCEPT THOSE OF OTHER ASSISTANCE MISSIONS.

5. OUR COUNTRY STILL HAS UNLIMITED NEEDS, AND NO ONE COUNTRY CAN

SATISFY THEM. THUS WE MUST HAVE DIPLOMACY OF TOUS AZIMUTS. IN SAME WAY OUR COUNTRY WAS ONE OF FIRST TO RECOGNIZE POPULAR CHINA AND TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH IT, WE HAVE DECIDED TO REINFORCE OUR RELATIONS WITH CUBA. NON ALIGNMENT AS PRESIDENT BAGAZA SAID DURING BRUSSELS PRESS CONFERENCE IS NOT SIMPLE PHILOSOPHY FOR BURUNDI BUT VITAL NECESSITY. TO THOSE WHO BELIEVE CUBANS WILL DESTABILIZE THEIR REGIME FROM BURUNDI SOIL, WE WISH RECALL THAT AT NO TIME HAS OUR COUNTRY LENT ITSELF TO SUCH THINGS. GOOD NEIGHBOR POLICY IS SACRED TO US. BURUNDI IS TIED BY SECURITY AGREEMENTS WITH CERTAIN SURROUNDING COUNTRIES AND EVERYTHING WILL BE DONE ASSURE THOSE ENGAGEMENTS WILL BE RESPECTED.

6. DARK PICTURE WHICH HAS BEEN PAINTED OF CUBA FOR US SHOULD NOT MAKE US FORGET IT IS THIRD WORLD COUNTRY WHICH AS MADE SPECTACULAR PROGRESS IN SHORT TIME. THERE NOT MANY COUNTRIES WHICH COULD HAVE WITHSTOOD ECONOMIC BOYCOTT AS CUBA DID. THIS SUCCESS FORCES ADMIRATION OF PEOPLES WHICH STRUGGLE AGAINST DOMINATION AND MISERY. BEST TEST OF CUBAN SUCCESS IS FURNISHED BY FEAR THIS LITTLE COUNTRY CAN INSPIRE IN GREAT POWERS. IF ONLY FOR THIS, SYMPATHY FO AFRICAN AND OTHER THIRD WORLD PEOPLES TOWARD HAVANA REGIME IS GROWING.

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